

Southeast News

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encountering GOD

"THIRTY YEARS LATER" - -
ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.C.C.!!

"Encountering God" - 1987-88 Church Life Resources for Laity and Clergy.

Designed to be used during the program year beginning September 1987, this packet is the latest in a series produced annually by the Office for Church Life and Leadership, for groups in churches of the U.C.C.. It includes the following at the cost of \$6.00. Also available separately.

Worship/Program Book: 12 chapters of worship and program suggestions on the theme "Encountering God." \$2.00.

"Be Still and Know that I Am God" - Celebration Booklet - services for Installation, a Retreat, Advent, Christmas and Easter. \$1.50.

God's Promise: Courage in the Struggle for Justice and Peace: narrative illustrating how God promises courage in the struggle for justice and peace. .60¢

Encounters in Art: reproductions of paintings from six artists offer a visual doorway to encountering God. \$1.00.

Adventures in Faith XXXI: Encountering God's Presence; a faith exploration based on Moses' encounter with God through the burning bush. .25¢

Spiritual Disciplines and the Spiritual Renewal Priority - 2-card set from the Leader's Box. \$1.00.

Order from United Church Resources, 1400 N. 7th St., St. Louis, MO 63106. Call, toll-free: 800-325-7061.

The United Church of Christ was born thirty years ago, June, 1957, in litigation as well as celebration.

Even as delegates to the General Synod in Cleveland approved the formal declaration of union, challenges were moving through the courts of law - all the way to the Supreme Court.

The history of that legal dispute is now largely forgotten. Today, at thirty, the United Church of Christ is strong and vigorous.

But we should never forget those among us who sought to make the vision described in the Gospel of John - "that they may all be one" - into a reality. They showed courage and dedication in the face of doubts and dissension.

At the time of the union, the Rev. James E. Wagner wrote: "Both denominations subscribe to a truth which Evangelical and Reformed people gladly recognize in an historic Congregational statement that 'God hath yet more light to break forth upon us from his holy word.'"

Let us give thanks for all those who saw and did God's will thirty years ago.

-- adapted from a Mission Moment.

KeyPak: January-June, 1987.

NOMINEES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE GIFTS OF LAY WOMEN

The Commission on Women in Church and Society has announced that Virginia McCamey, Shirley Higgins, and Annie Ruth Hill have been chosen from among hundreds of faithful Christian women in the Southeast Conference to be honored at General Synod in Cleveland, June 25-30.

They were chosen from women whose lives provide models of mission and service, in support of the total mission of the United Church of Christ in every aspect of its life. Chosen not only for the service to the local women's groups, they are also dedicated to the life of the local church, the community, the Southeast Conference, and the wider church.

Ginny, Shirley and Annie Ruth will also be honored at the June Meeting of the Southeast Conference at Agnes Scott College. We are grateful to each of you for the many services you give through generous sharing of your lives with others. Congratulations, best wishes, and may God continue to bless and guide each of you.

S.E.C. YOUTH - SPRING MINI CAMP

The Youth Mini-Camp was held at Laguna Beach, Florida, April 24 - 26, with Rev. Wayde Washburn as Camp Director.

There were 17 churches represented, and a total of 206 people, youth and leaders combined. We are happy to report that this group collected an offering of \$168.00 for the Elon Home for Children!

Thank you for your support; thanks to the young people who attended - and to all of the adults who took part as leaders.

EAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

The East Alabama Christian Education Committee announces:

Christian Education Seminar - to be held July 18, 1987; from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 pm at Lanett Congregational Christian Church.

The three areas to be covered are:

Church School Curriculum, Stewardship and Church Growth. Contact Wayde Washburn - and PLEASE COME!!

In a "spirit of penitence" for what they see as U.S.-backed injustices in Central America, more than 500 local members and church-wide leaders of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gathered on the capitol steps in Washington, D.C., on April 8, to engage in worship, lobbying and civil disobedience.

It was the seventh weekly event of an 8 week "Lenten Witness for Peace and Justice in Central America" which began on Ash Wednesday. Thirty-two church leaders from all across the United States read a joint statement in the Capitol Rotunda for which they were arrested and held in jail for more than 24 hours. Their statement called attention to the illegality of U.S. actions against Nicaragua, and the smuggling of cocaine into the U.S. with Executive Branch sanction to buy weapons for the contras.

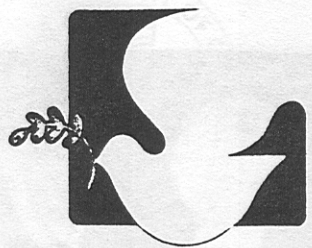
Among the 32 arrested was the Rev. Joyce B. Myers, Southern Regional Associate of the Office for Church Life and Leadership and a member of Central Congregational Church in Atlanta. Joyce says, "Having spent a lot of time in Central America, I keep thinking of what people there have said, especially victims of the wars that we largely contribute to: 'Tell your Government to send us bread and not bullets.' A hymn that I quote from all the time, 'Yo No Puedo Callar', says: 'I can't keep quiet. I can't pass by indifferent before the suffering of so many. My friends are going to have to forgive me, but I have a commitment and I have to sing the reality.'"

OOPS! SORRY!

Editor's error....In the March issue, the "CLERGY/SPOUSE RETREAT" was accidentally titled "Minister's/Wives Convocation". It was an honest error - not intended to omit anyone or to offend any of our wonderful people.

The South Dakota Conference newsletter, "The Observer", (a very professional-looking, beautiful publication which I have admired and envied), had an error which gave me some comfort. The article was "Pastors' and Spouses' Pre-Lenten Retreat".... and just under the title, in the first sentence, was printed "Pastors' and Souses'!" Just goes to show.....to err is human!

(your Editor)



JUST PEACE OFFERING

June 7, Pentecost Sunday, is the suggested date for the 1987 JUST PEACE OFFERING in the United Church of Christ.

This newest offering in the U.C.C. has already made a difference for justice and peace. Rev. Yvonne Delk, Exec. Director of the Office for Church in Society, says:---

"BLESSED ARE
THE PEACEMAKERS
FOR THEY SHALL BE
CALLED THE CHILDREN
OF GOD"

MATTHEW 5:9

"We helped avoid cuts in assistance to children who are poor; we helped delay production of chemical weapons; and we helped pass the tax Reform Bill in the House of Representatives, which gives tax relief to the poor and those with moderate incomes." Giving generously to the Just Peace All-Church Offering not only underwrites local, conference and national peacemaking ministries. It also increases individual and congregational Christian and spiritual health.

MINISTERS LEAVING

We regret to announce the resignations of the following ministers:

The Rev. W. David Chandler - Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, Birmingham.
The Rev. Bert Schory - Lanett Congregational Christian Church United Church of Christ.
The Rev. William T. Scott, Jr., - Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Atlanta.

BUTTON GWINNETT TO RE-OPEN CHARTER

Sunday, June 7, Button Gwinnett United Church will re-open its Charter in order to include more members. Our continued best wishes to Dr. John Terry, pastor and to all Button Gwinnett members.

CURT'S NUGGETS

Our hearts will always be directed toward that which we consider our supreme good. Is that "supreme good" God or ourselves?

...Curt Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee.

W. PRESSLEY INGRAM

The Southeast Conference lost one of its most dedicated and faithful members in the death of W. Pressley Ingram of Birmingham, Alabama on April 16, 1987. A native of Tallapoosa County, he was a member of the Elder Church near Dadeville while growing up and was a graduate of Bethlehem Academy and Bethlehem College in Wadley, Alabama. His generosity and labor made possible the erection of the current brick building which now houses Elder Church.

As an adult, Mr. Ingram lived and worked in Birmingham, retiring as an auditor with Alabama Power Company. A member of Pilgrim Congregational Church there, he held many leadership positions within his local church, the Alabama-Tennessee Association, and the Southeast Conference. He chaired the Finance Committee of the Conference for many years and served on the Board of Directors.

His interests in the larger church led him to accept membership on the Corporate Board of the United Church Board for World Ministries, where he was a member of the Auditing Committee, and made several trips over-seas for the Board to examine and strengthen the financial records of various mission stations

An humble, gentle and generous servant of Jesus Christ, Pressley Ingram will be missed. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family and many friends.

OTIS CHILDERS

We are deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Otis Childers in LaFayette, Alabama. He was the husband of our beloved Katherine Childers, who is a member of the Conference Nominating Committee as well as the Area-Wide Mission Strategy Task Force. Mr. Childers died of a sudden heart attack.

Funeral services were held Monday, May 4, in the Pleasant Grove Congregational Christian Church. Rev. Claude A. Shumate was assisted by Rev. L. Floyd Carmack.

We extend to Katherine, her family and many friends, our love and deepest sympathy.

REV. RALPH GALT, Interim Pastor for Robbins Parish, announced on April 5th, that he will be retiring from the ministry sometime in July. We extend our best wishes to Rev. & Mrs. Galt, and will have more news on this in the next issue.

CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

It is not too late to make your plans to attend the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference. It will be held Thursday, June 11th through Saturday, June 13th, at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia.

Our inspirational speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Charles Shelby Rookes, the Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. A variety of workshops will be offered on a wide selection of matters of interest, from developing lay leadership to Just Peace concerns.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the Annual Meeting is the opportunity for renewed fellowship through worship, meals, business and small groups. In the midst of all the formal activity, there is also opportunity for informal conversation and renewal of friendships.

The business session will include reports of officers and commissions along with special reports from the Area-Wide Mission Strategy Task Force and the newly formed Conference Minister Search Committee.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of the larger church represented by the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference. Contact the Conference Office at (404)633-5655 if you need further information.

Your presence will enrich the experience for the rest of us. Let's make this the best meeting yet!

...Emmett O. Floyd
Conference Minister



Dora Brackin honored by Blackwoods

A surprise recognition service for Dora Brackin was given by the Blackwoods Congregational Church Jan. 25. Dr. Emmett Floyd, Southeast Conference minister, presented the sermon, while Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Assoc. Conference Minister, read letters of appreciation sent to her. Rev. Larry Crook, Blackwoods pastor, presented Dora with a plaque of resolutions of appreciation for the many positions held in the Southeast Conference, Florida Conference, S. Alabama Association, and also in the local church. The final resolution was to set up a Dora Brackin Scholarship Fund. Following the morning service, nieces and nephews honored Dora with a birthday dinner in the church fellowship hall.

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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